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SUPER HEROES FROM THE MIND OF

CLIVE BARKER

HOKUM & HEX

THIS IS IT!
AGAINST
THE ODDS...



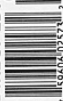
...AGAINST THE

HYPERKIND!

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DIRECT EDITION

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IN A MIX OF MAGIC, COMEDY AND EXPLOSIVE SUSPENSE, FAILED STAND-UP COMIC TRIP MUNROE HAS BECOME THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST A POWERFUL, EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL OVERLORD — IN OTHER WORDS, EARTH'S LAST, BEST HOPE... IS A JOKE.

CLIVE BARKER PRESENTS...

HOKUM & HEX

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL MY HYPERLIFE?
A TALE OF THE BARKERVERSE

CREATED BY CLIVE BARKER

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STOP IT! STOP!
I CAN'T! I CAN'T...

...I CAN'T
REMEMBER
MY LINE!

WHAT IS THE
MATTER WITH YOU?
YOU'VE BEEN
BOTCHING THINGS
ALL WEEK!

WENDY!
WHAT'S THE
LINE!

"HELLO? S'TATCHOO?"
AND THEN HE CHANGES
THOSE FIVE LAVA-SCULP-
TURES TO LOOK LIKE
JOEY BUTTAFUOCO!

NOW WHY IS
THAT SO HARD?!

WHERR

CUT!

I'M SORRY,
MR. GURNEY. I
PROMISE... I'LL
GET IT RIGHT!

SEE, I'VE
NEVER BEEN
ON LIVE TV
BEFORE, AND...

YOU GET YOUR
LINES DOWN,
MUNROE, OR I
SWEAR TOMORROW
IT'LL BE DEAD
FROM L.A.
IT'S FRIDAY
NIGHT."



STILL BLOWING
IT, HUH?

I HAVE TO,
SOL. THE NETWORK
WANTS ME TO USE
THESE TRANSFORMATIVE
POWERS THAT GODKIN
STRAITH GAVE ME...
...WHICH, AS FAR AS I
KNOW, ARE ALL GONE.

LOOK, STRAITH WOULDN'T
LEAVE THE EARTH UNDEFENDED.
I TOLD YOU, I'M TRYING TO FIND
A WAY TO CONTACT HIM.

BETTER DO IT BY
TOMORROW-- OR THE PARAGON
NETWORK 'LL THINK I'M A FRAUD,
HAVE MY BAIL REVOKED, AND SEND
ME BACK TO JAIL IN NEW YORK...

...WHERE FELON BALE'S
CORDIN WILL FIND ME AND KILL
ME. BY THE WAY-- DON'T YOU EVER
CHANGE CLOTHES?



I DO--I'M WEARING SOME OF YOURS.

CAN I HELP IT IF YOU'VE CHANGED THE LIGHT WAVES AROUND ME TO MAKE ME LOOK LIKE THIS?

I WAS HAPPY LOOKING LIKE MYSELF! BACK ON THE NEEDYS, FEMALES LOVE A MALE WITH A BIG WHITE BEARD.

HEY, I'VE APOLOGIZED TEN TIMES ALREADY FOR ACCIDENTALLY MAKING YOU LOOK LIKE ANTONETTE.

BUT I CAN'T CHANGE YOU BACK UNLESS WE FIND A WAY TO RECHARGE MY POWERS.

Y'KNOW, I DON'T THINK YOU WANT TO CHANGE ME BACK. MY LOOKING LIKE HER HELPS YOU PRETEND SHE DIDN'T LEAVE YOU.

I SAY YOU'RE BETTER OFF WITHOUT HER. FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, SHE'S A REAL "PEJORATIVE TERM FOR A FEMALE DOG."

LET ME GUESS: ANOTHER WORD THAT DOESN'T TRANSLATE?

I SUPPOSE.

LOOK, WHAT ARE WE EVEN DOING HERE? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DEFENDING THE EARTH FROM FELON BALE.



I AM! IF THE NETWORK HEAD, JOHN DOORE, HADN'T POOTED MY BAIL IN RETURN FOR THIS GIG AND ALL INTERVIEW RIGHTS, I'D STILL BE IN JAIL!

DOING NO ONE ANY GOOD, FINE!

AND ANYWAY, I DID HAVE AN IDEA THIS MORNING. LET'S GO BACK TO THE HOTEL AND SEE IF IT WORKS.

THANKS, SOL, AND ABOUT ANTONETTE... I HEAR YOU. BUT Y'KNOW, YOU JUST CAN'T HELP WHO YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH.

OF COURSE YOU CAN, YOU IDIOT. LOVE IS THE FLIP SIDE OF HATE, AND WE ALL CHOOSE OUR ENEMIES.

YOU, FOR INSTANCE YOU'RE MY ENEMY, BECAUSE YOU'RE HYPERKIND...

... LIKE THESE OTHERS, THE NEW FALXIS... WHOM YOU ARE GOING TO HELP ME KILL!

THEY WILL SLAUGHTER THESE NEW FLEDLINGS ... CAUSE NO END OF DAMAGE...

... AND THE WORLD WILL SAY IT'S YOUR FAULT, MURDERER! I WOULD NOT WANT TO BE IN YOUR SHOES THEN, SON.



TOMORROW NIGHT, YOUR UNNATURAL POWERS, WARPED BY MY CONTRIVANCES, WILL UNLEASH THE VEXUS...

... FREE THEM FROM THE MYSTICAL SCULPTURES IN WHICH THE ORIGINAL FALXIS TRAPPED THEM, THIRTY YEARS AGO.



I'M GOOD. I'M VERY GOOD.

SO LET THEM CALL ME PARAGON JOHN... IT FITS.

"IN FACT, EVEN AS I STAND UP HERE, I'M TYPING UP A LOOSE END ALL THE WAY IN NEW YORK."

INCREDIBLE. THE MOST INCREDIBLE WEEK OF MY LIFE.

I THOUGHT I'D SEEN EVERYTHING, ALL THESE YEARS ON THE JUDICIAL BENCH.

BUT "SUPER HEROES" IN MY COURTROOM? INCREDIBLE.

AFTER THE FRACAS WITH Z-MAN AND THAT "SUPERMAGICIAN" AND THAT... THAT CREATURE CALLING ITSELF INEXTREMIS...

...IT ALL, LITTLE BY LITTLE, CAME BACK. THOSE OLD HYPERKIND-- THE FAXIS-- THEY WERE REAL.

AND SOMEHOW, I AND EVERYONE ELSE BLACKED OUT OUR MEMORIES OF THEM.

OR, WELL, NOT EVERYONE...

IN LAST ISSUE. -- MARC

THAT GROUP THAT APPROACHED ME THIS WEEK-- "THE FAITHFUL"

-- OTHER PEOPLE WHO ALSO REMEMBER.

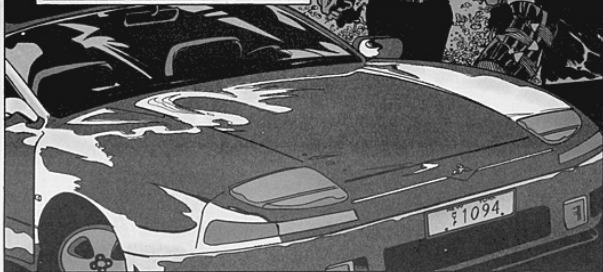
I'VE MADE CALLS... CHECKED THEM OUT... THEY'RE UNDERGROUND, BUT HARMLESS. AND WHEN I SEE THEM SUNDAY, I CAN...

MARC - ANTIMARC. Spencer

ALEMMING
EMIL
frank GRE
ANT
Spencer

ALEMMING
EMIL
frank GRE
ANT
Spencer







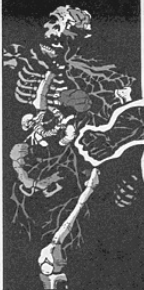
BE NOT AFRAID, I
AM, **FELON BALE**.
I AM YOUR FRIEND
AND YOUR **LORD**.



AND SOON, YOU
WILL BE... MY
CHAMPION.



BY LAW, THE ACTION
OF MY ADVERSARY,
GODKIN STRAITH,
HAS ALLOWED ME
THIS.



TO FACILITATE IT, THE
LAW FURTHER WAS
ALLOWED ME ACCESS
TO THE FILES OF THE
TEMPUS MAGI-- THE
TIMEKEEPERS OF THE NEOBYS.

I SELECT YOU AS THE
PERFECT FORCE TO
COUNTER **GODKIN**.
STRAITH'S CHAMPION.
HIS NAME IS
VIRIP MUNKOE.

YOUR NAME AND
YOUR MISSION



IS
BLOODSHED.

YOU HAVE A SECONDARY OBJECTIVE AS WELL, MY NEW CHAMPION.

FIND GORKILL CONVULS, LEADER OF THE FIRST EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

...WHOSE FAILURE TO KILL EARTH'S CHAMPION HAS DELAYED AN ENTIRE CRUSADE.

IF HE IS DEAD, RETRIEVE HIS BODY FOR BURIAL.

AND IF HE IS ALIVE--
KILL HIM.

PRETTY RATTY APARTMENT FOR EARTH'S CHAMPION.

I CAN'T GET OVER THIS THING THOUGH... A VHS-SCREEN USED FOR ENTERTAINMENT INSTEAD OF SURVEILLANCE.

AND THOSE EARTH FEMALES THERE MAKE THE ONES ON THE NEOBYS LOOK LIKE...

...WELL, LIKE GORRY FEMALES--UGLIEST IN ALL THE TEN WORLDS.

WHAT'S THAT? SOMETHING'S MOVING?

VOOM!

NOT ANYMORE.

SO... IT WASN'T JUST A COLLOQUIAL TURN OF PHRASE. THIS RATTY APARTMENT REALLY IS, WELL...

LET'S CONSIDER THIS PRACTICE FOR WHAT I'LL DO TO EARTH'S CHAMPION WHEN HE RETURNS!

SQUISH!

BACK IN LA.

TRUST ME, IT'LL WORK, I THINK.

GOOD THING YOU BROUGHT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S OLD STRIKE-MAGIC GEAR WITH YOU. IT HAS ALL THE PROPS WE NEED.

BUT IF MIMICKING THE TART CARD FOR "THE MAGICIAN" CAN GET ME TO GODKIN STRAITH, WHY HAVEN'T WE DONE IT BEFORE?

WHAT, YOU THINK THIS IS LIKE TAKING A CRUISE? YOU CAN'T JUST DO IT ANYTIME! THERE'S A POWERFUL DIMENSIONAL BREACH OPEN RIGHT NOW.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

BECAUSE I KNOW HOW FELON BALE THINKS, ALL RIGHT?

DON'T GET TENDRY, I'M ONLY ASKING.

"NOW
CONCENTRATE,
TRIP. YOU HAVE
TO VISUALIZE
WHERE YOU'RE
GOING.

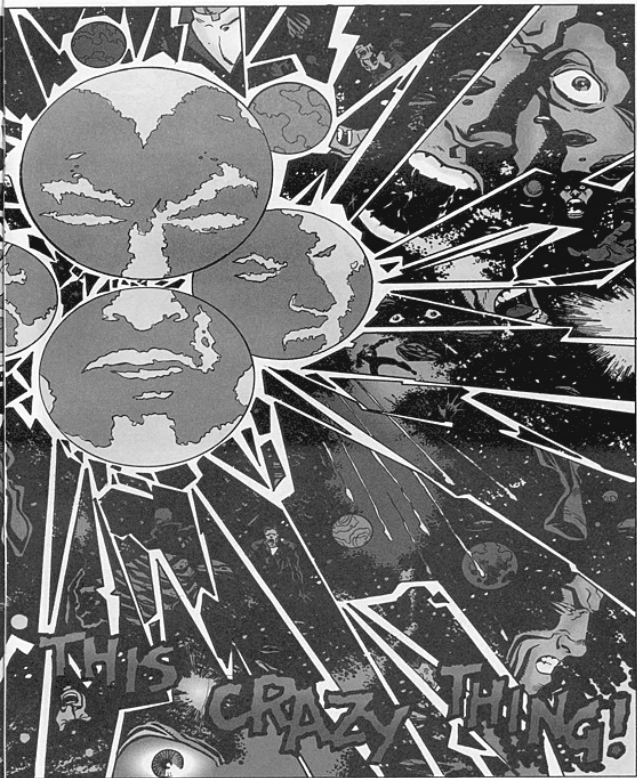
YEEE-III.
TELL ME AGAIN
WHAT IT IS!?

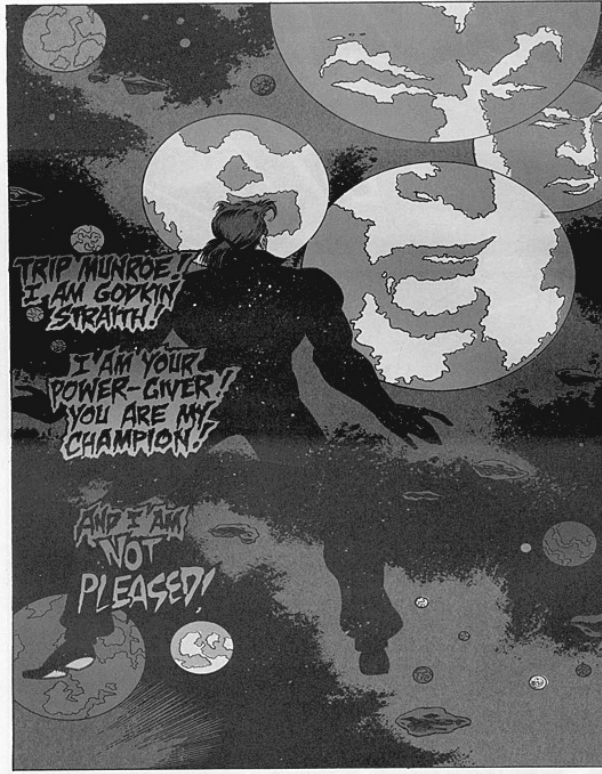
"...GODKIN
STRAITH.
TRIP? TRIP?"

"NEOSPACE!
WHERE GODS
CONVERSE! AND
DEMI-GODS, LIKE-

SOLLLLLL!!
HELP!!

STOP

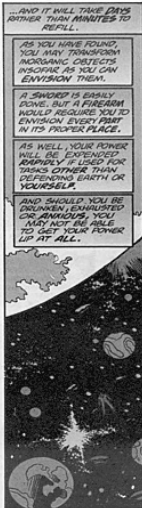




TRIP MUNROE!
I AM GODKIN'
STRAITH!

I AM YOUR
POWER-GIVER!
YOU ARE MY
CHAMPION!

AND I AM
NOT
PLEASED!



HIGH IN THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS.

OH, KENNY...
WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO DO?

I DUNNO, LISA.
I SHOULDN'T EVEN BE
HERE WITH YOU. WE'VE
BROKEN UP. I'M... I'M
WITH DYAN NOW.
SORT OF.

BUT AFTER
EVERYTHING WE'VE
BEEN THROUGH...
BECOMING HYPERKIND...
GETTING THE POWERS
OF THE OLD PAXOS...
...AND FIGHTING OFF THAT
CRAZY MAN, PARAGON JOHN...
...I'M SO TIRED... SO CRAZY
TIRED ALL THE TIME NOW...

STOP IT! YOU'RE
JUST JEALOUS!

YOU, ME AND GEORGE
HAVE TO MEET HER AT
WORK IN AN HOUR. TO
TALK ABOUT THESE POWERS.
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP
CLEAR HEADS! I...

WE'RE NOT WHO
WE WERE ANYMORE.
WE'RE LIKE NOBODY
ELSE IN THE WORLD
NOW.
ALL OUR FRIENDS...
OUR PARENTS... HOW
CAN WE TALK TO THEM
ABOUT THIS? HOW
CAN ANYONE UNDER-
STAND WHAT WE
FEEL?

OH,
KENNY...

DON'T.
PLEASE
DON'T.

YOU'VE GOTTA KEEP
IT TOGETHER, LISA.

IT'S BAD ENOUGH
THIS... PAXOS STUFF HAS
MADE DYAN RETREAT INTO
HER OWN WORLD. SHE MAY
EVEN BE ON DRUGS
OR SOMETHING.

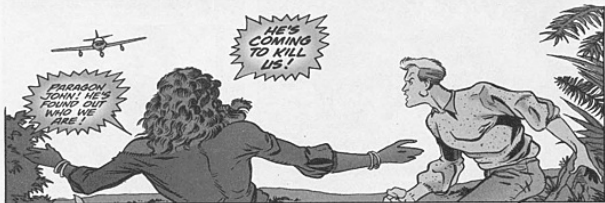
HUH! A
TABLE DANGER?
ON DRUGS?
WOW! WHAT ARE
THE ODDS
OF THAT?!

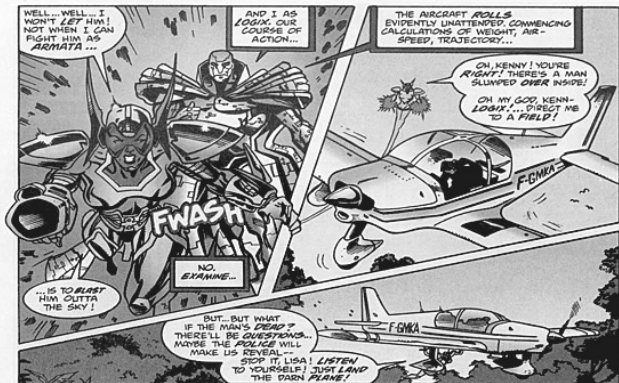
WHAT
IS IT?
WHAT DO
YOU
SEE?

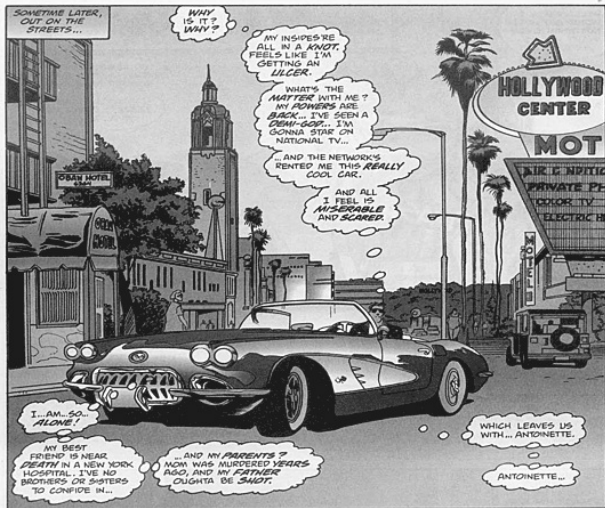


PARAGON
JOHN! HE'S
FOUND OUT
WHO WE
ARE!

HE'S
COMING
TO KILL
US!







SOMETIME LATER,
OUT ON THE
STREETS...

WHY
IS IT?
WHY?

MY INSIDES'RE
ALL IN A KNOT.
FEELS LIKE I'M
GETTING AN
ULCER.

WHAT'S THE
MATTER WITH ME?
MY POWERS ARE
BACK... I'VE SEEN A
DEAN-COY... I'M
GONNA STAR ON
NATIONAL TV...

...AND THE NETWORK'S
RENTED ME THIS REALLY
COOL CAR.

AND ALL
I FEEL IS
MISERABLE
AND SCARED.

HOLLYWOOD
CENTER

MOT

AIR C NITION
PRIVATE P
DOOR TV
ELECTRIC H

OBAN HOTEL

GREEN
CHOCOLATE

101

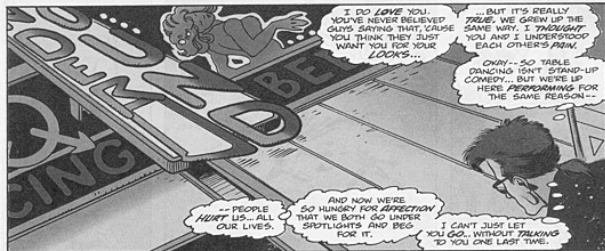
I... AM... SO...
ALONE!

MY BEST
FRIEND IS NEAR
DEATH IN A NEW YORK
HOSPITAL. I'VE NO
BROTHERS OR SISTERS
TO CONFIDE IN...

...AND MY PARENTS?
MOM WAS MURDERED YEARS
AGO, AND MY FATHER
OUGHTA BE SHOT.

WHICH LEAVES US
WITH... ANTOINETTE.

ANTOINETTE...



I DO LOVE YOU.
YOU'VE NEVER BELIEVED
GUYS SAYING THAT, CAUSE
YOU THINK THEY JUST
WANT YOU FOR YOUR
LOOKS...

...BUT IT'S REALLY
TRUE. WE GREW UP THE
SAME WAY. I THOUGHT
YOU AND I UNDERSTOOD
EACH OTHER'S PAIN.

OHY-- SO TABLE
DANCING ISN'T STAND-UP
COMEDY... BUT WE'RE UP
HERE PERFORMING FOR
THE SAME REASON--

--PEOPLE
HURT US... ALL
OUR LIVES.

AND NOW WE'RE
SO HUNGRY FOR AFFECTION
THAT WE BOTH GO UNDER
SPOTLIGHTS AND BEG
FOR IT.

I CAN'T JUST LET
YOU GO... WITHOUT TALKING
TO YOU ONE LAST TIME.



SO HERE'S
"EARTH'S
CHAMPION"...
STEPPING INTO
A SLEAZY
JOINT TO SEE
IF ANYONE KNOWS
WHERE ON THE
CIRCUIT YOU'RE
DANCING.

BOY I'M
GLAD THE
WORLD DOESN'T
KNOW WHAT KIND
JERK GOODIN
STRAITH HAS
DEFENDING
THE EARTH!

LOUSY
DRY LOUSY
TIPS.

KENNY AND THE
OTHERS'LL BE HERE
SOON, AND LITTLE DYAN
HASN'T MADE ENOUGH
TO SCORE A CAN
OF SODA.

WELL--
FORGET
WHAT THE
OTHERS SAY!
I NEED MONEY!
I'LL USE MY
FANTASY-WEAVING
POWERS OMNIN...
THIS GUY, HE
LOOKS RICH.

I MEAN, ALL THE DANCERS
KNOW EACH OTHER, MAYBE
ONE OF THEM'LL KNOW
WHERE I CAN FIND...

HUH?

ANTOINETTE!

ANTOINETTE!
IT'S ME! TRIP!

OH, MANNIN!
A JUNIOR-GRADE
JOHN HINKLEY!
JUST WHAT I
NEED!

LOOK, BUDDY,
CALM DOWN.
I NEVER SAW YOU
BEFORE IN MY
LIFE--OKAY?

OH, C'MON ANTOINETTE.
I KNOW YOU'RE UPSY--
BUT EVERYTHING'S
CHANGED!

HEY!
LEGGO!
MANAGER!

STOP!
LISTEN!
I'M THE
GUY IN
THE NEWS!
I'M--

--DEAD
MEAT,
PSYCHO!

FRUNCI



BOY ON BOY... I GO TO
THE REST ROOM ONE MINUTE,
AND YOU START THE DANCE
WITHOUT ME.

WHAT
SAY I...
CUT IN?





FWASH

GANGWAY!

OH MY GOD!
FELON BALE'S
CORP!! WARRIORS!
THEY'VE FOUND
ME IN L.A.!

AMOKK!
SHIELD YOUR
EYES! GET
READY TO
SLICE!

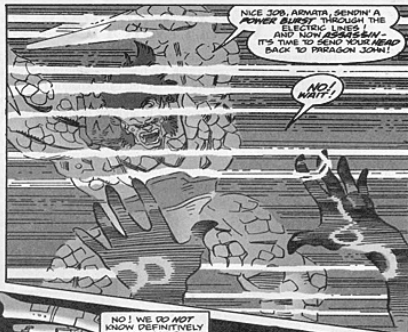
OKAY! GOOD! THE
PLACE CLEARED OUT
WHEN THAT MONSTER
APPEARED! NOW YOU'LL GET
HURT IF-- WHERE'D
SHE COME FROM!



KWASH

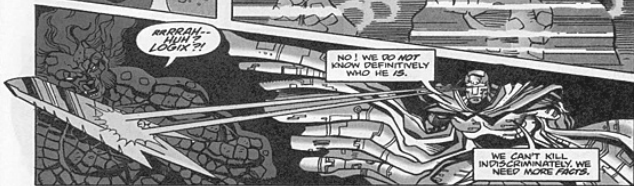
WHIN!
THOSE LIGHTS
ARE EYES!

KWASH



NICE JOB, ARMATA, SENDIN' A
POWER BURST THROUGH THE
ELECTRIC LINES!
AND NOW ASSASSIN--
IT'S TIME TO SEND YOUR HEAD
BACK TO PARAGON JOHN!

**NO!
WAIT!**



RRRAH--
WHIN?!
LOOK?!

NO! WE DO NOT
KNOW DEFINITELY
WHO HE IS.

WE CAN'T KILL
INDICRIMINATELY, WE
NEED MORE FACTS.

OH-HI, MAN. IT'S LIKE
STARING INTO THE SUN!
BUT THEY'VE GIVEN
ME A BREATHING NOW...

... THEY ALWAYS SAID
GRANDPA LOST THESE,
BUT I FOUND 'EM,
50000...

EAT
MARBLES,
BAD
GUYS!!!

ZZZZZOOOSH

LOOK
OUT!
LUNHA!

WHIRRR

POOM

POOM

SHOOSH

INCREDIBLE!
THEY'RE PIERCING
MY CAPE!

ZZZZ

WHIRRR

YIPES!





WE HAVE FOUND
...ANOTHER...
OF THE KING

...OH MY GOD...

MR. MONROE, WE HAVEN'T
MUCH TIME. I CALCULATE
POLICE WILL ARRIVE
IN 37 SECONDS.

PARAGON
JOHN DOORE, YOUR
BENEFACTOR...

...IS A MADMAN. HE
IRRATIONALLY DESPISES
ALL HYPERKIND.

...AND NOW ATTEMPTS
TO KILL THE NEW.

USING CHEMICALS IN
DRINKING WATER, SUB-
LIMINAL MESSAGES, EVEN
MERCENARIES, HE HAS
INDUCED THE WORLD TO
FORGET THE OLD
HYPERKIND...

THOSE ALREADY IN THE PUBLIC EYE-- YOU --HE WILL
TRIVIALIZE, MAKE A LAUGHINGSTOCK...

"...AND HE WILL KILL
YOU QUICKLY. NOW,
WE MUST GO."

"OH, MANNNNN, IT
JUST NEVER LETS
UP! WHAT'RE WE
GONNA DO LOOK?"

"WHAT
DO YOU MEAN,
ME?"



FRIDAY NIGHT, LIVE.

I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
THIS, TRIP...

I'M
DEFENDING
MYSELF, SOL.
THAT'S A PROPER
USE OF MY
POWERS.

"AND THOSE FOUR KIDS I GAVE
TICKETS TO... I TRUST THEM.
WE'RE DIFFERENT... BUT WE'RE
BOTH HYPERKING!"

"OH, IS THAT WHAT WE'RE
CALLING OURSELVES THIS
SEASON? C'MON--YOU'RE
OH."

...SO I PICKED UP
THE PHONE AND SAID,
"HELLO? STATCHOO?"

NOW! I'LL CHANGE
THESE STATUES TO LOOK
LIKE THE PAXIS! THEN
THEY'LL FLY UP HERE ON
LIVE TV! LET PARAGON
JOHN STOP...

...THIS? OH NO!
NOW? WHAT?

FRASH FRASH

...CANNOT STOP US WITH A
MERE LAVA FLOW! WE ARE
THE VEXUS! WE ARE YOUR
BETTERS!

AND WE WILL FULFILL
OUR DESTINY OF
DESTROYING THE
PAXIS...

...ALL
FIVE
OF YOU!

CONTINUED IN 2 WEEKS
IN HYPERKING #6...

...THEN JOIN TRIP NEXT ISSUE
AS SCORCH ATTACKS, AND THEY
BOTH LEARN THE MEANING OF...

BLOODSHED.

PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
RAZORLINE
C/O MARVEL
387 PARK AVE. SO.
NEW YORK, NY 10016

MARC MCLAURIN • EDITOR
SPENCER LAMM • ASST. EDITOR
MALCOLM SMITH • CONSULTING
EDITOR

HOKUM & HEX

the name game

There seems to be some concern over what this book is about. In traveling across the country for the myriad appearances and conventions to make people aware of the RAZORLINE, the same question keeps popping up. Who's Hokum, and who's the hex? In other words, the clever aspect of naming this book after what it's about, rather than the main character, is causing some confusion.

the fark and the kalle in the road

Our choices are: A) to push the name we have, and count on it being different enough to catch attention or B) to launch this book with a new, more accessible name—which in some way denotes the main character (who, by the way, may or may not be Trip Munroe...). The pleasant part is that either way organically works with the progression writer Frank Lovece has mapped out for this book, and a name change could be in line with the dramatic changes you'll soon be seeing in these very pages. The hard part is we're just not sure what you readers who, as we've said in the past, have an active part in guiding the destiny of this book, would think about the change. Personally, I think the title HOKUM & HEX is one of the most refreshingly different names out there, for one of the most refreshingly different comics produced today. But I'm biased.

plpe up!

So the chase on this is that you'll have to serve as the tie-breaker. What do you think? Do we need to change the title of this book to make it more, or can we rely on you to due in the populace to what a really dramatically different package we have here? It's in your court, and we anxiously await your response.

Whatever changes come in the days ahead, know that this line is and will continue to be about challenging the norm, breaking standards, and changing the face of comics. That'll never change, as long as the RAZORLINE is steadfastly overseen and creatively driven by Olive Barker. This is to say, it'll never change.

Dear HOKUM & HEX,

Come on and action rarely mix in comics. Especially in super hero titles. They usually just don't make me laugh and the action is of the most limp-wristed type. That's why I avoided HOKUM & HEX issue #1, hearing that it was this impossible blend of elements into a comic book.

It was at a friend's house that I read issue #2. I'm still looking for issue #1. I don't know how you did it, but this book I can say has done the impossible. I laughed and I thought that the action was just that action!

Trip Munroe is a three dimensional character (something else rare nowadays in comics), and his plight is unique. It's been so long since I have been genuinely excited about a comic book story.

There are things I don't like, but they're minor. I don't like that Sol looks like Trip's ex. It's just confusing and doesn't help the story. It doesn't even really have anything to do with the story, except for a few unfunny

throw-away lines.

Other than that, this is the best book on the block, bar none. And I mean that!

Dennis Sloan
500 Montclair St.
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Thanks Denny. Good thing your friend had a copy lying around! At the writing, the first issues of HOKUM & HEX like they're a complete sell-out, and the second issues are well on their way! It's nice to hear we can convert so easily. We don't ask anybody to do more than read a single issue; any issue will do the trick. Thanks for proving us right!

Dear RAZORLINE,

This is a letter to HOKUM & HEX but it deals with all of the four new Razorline titles. I've missed feelings about this new "universe," namely that it is a new universe! Why did it have to be set in a world of its own, especially when there was no need to start a new one. Marvel is a rich place to have characters interact, and I see no reason why Trip Munroe couldn't be seeking out Doctor Strange for advice. It's the same world except for the lack of all the super heroes. Is it a cop out? I know it's easier to just start over, but is that fair? Or better put, is that nearly as entertaining as introducing new and interesting characters to an already exciting backdrop?

Now for the good news. I actually do enjoy these books. There isn't a single one of them that doesn't have at least one character that I really like and most of the books are complex enough to distract me from my earlier comment.

Hands down though, HOKUM & HEX wins. It's this one that blows the others away. Trip Munroe is perfect. I like him as a character, something rare on reading only two issues of a book. I'm comfortable enough to call him Trip. Keep up the good work, Frank Lovece. Or can I call you Frank?

Now a few words about the other titles. HYPERWIND will get better when the team lets go of the fumbling teenager routine and become straight-ahead super-heroes. There's too much "I can't believe that this is happening." You should remember, you're talking to a comic book audience that lives on the reality of ordinary people with super-powers. They don't want to be told that it's impossible or that these are ordinary people. They're obviously not!

SAINT SINNER is the kind of book which will also get better, but for different reasons. Right now, we don't have anything about all the characters we're meeting. They seem interesting, but it's just going to take time to care about them. But I really love Elaine Lee's unconventional writing.

ECTOSPHERE is probably my second favorite, but I'm not sure. HYPERWIND and SAINT SINNER seems to have a very bright future, and because of that might soon outdistance this good but not that exciting kind of book. There's not much you can do with the title that you haven't already. One foot in the afterlife, one foot in the here now, makes for interesting images, but does it? I just don't think this one has the longevity of the others.

Final words are that this is the best new universe out there. I still don't think it

should be a new universe, but if it's going to be, let it be as consistently good as its best.

Jim Dale
321 Timber Ridge
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Thanks for the comments on all of the books. First, we always appreciate thoughtful criticism, positive or negative. But as for a lack of story in ECTOSPHERE, we have to differ. We feel the best way for revealing the complex mythologies and metaphysics of the Barkerverse, is one eye-full at a time. Check out the latest ECTOSPHERE, because if you haven't read these books lately, you just haven't read these books!

As for a cross-over with Marvel, any thoughts out there?

NEIGH: Trip Munroe is back in NYC, just in time to meet his ultimate opposite, the champion of Helmut Helms. Be here for the first part of a four-part saga that will take Trip apart at the seams! He's learn, he's mean, he's "ELODORIDE!" ...and he's not a nice man.

CUTTING EDGE ALERT!

In two weeks, in HYPERWIND #1:

Check out the 2nd part of this epic as the Hyperwind team face off with the greatest enemies of the original Fadal! This issue is guaranteed to turn the comics world on its ear, as we present our first all-ages issue! Don't miss it!

TOUGH—THE VIGIL

ELSEWHERE, ALONG THE RAZORLINE EDGE:

Next week in SAINT SINNER #4:

Saint Sinner's split is still stuck in the Ectosphere, and facing off against the malevolent Sir Sigmond! Guest starring Dex Mungo, the Ectodroid!

In ECTOSPHERE #6:

Dex leaps back for Ectospheric adventure that reunites him with his father—and a demonic plot on both their tails! Action and adventure await, at the end of "Highway 61!"

Special Note

The news has been slow to get out, but the name Olive Barker isn't exclusive to horror anymore—and when it's got a RAZORLINE banner next to it, you can count on the fact that it's great entertainment for every age! But it looks like we'll need your help to make sure everyone knows! As a special thanks to the first fifty readers who make it a point to see the RAZORLINE titles are not riched with horror, we'll send either a specially autographed picture of Olive himself, or a special all-out signed copy of HYPERWIND #1! Your choice!

All you need to do is send us a note from your local retailer saying "I got the RAZORLINE right" and a photo of the proud rocking of the RAZORLINE titles together. We'll be watching, to make sure you are!